

## House Resolution 1916

By: Representative Cox of the 102<sup>nd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Reverend Dr. Tom Stephenson on the occasion of his  
2 retirement from Central Christian Church; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Tom Stephenson has demonstrated his commitment to teaching  
4 the Gospel, witnessing Christ through word and deed, and addressing the physical,  
5 psychological, intellectual, and spiritual needs of others; and

6 WHEREAS, Reverend Stephenson was called by the Lord 17 years ago to lead the  
7 congregation of Central Christian Church in Columbus, Georgia; and

8 WHEREAS, his vision and direction have helped Central Christian Church grow in size and  
9 influence, uplifting the community and serving as a spiritual leader and place for fellowship;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Reverend Stephenson earned a bachelor's degree from Barton College, a  
12 master's degree from Duke University, and a doctoral degree from the University of  
13 Kentucky; and

14 WHEREAS, over the past two decades leading Central Christian Church, Reverend  
15 Stephenson has established numerous programs and workshops which have improved the  
16 spiritual and educational growth of the church and the surrounding community and presided  
17 over the church's move to a new house of worship on Moon Road in 1996; and

18 WHEREAS, whether the task is preparing a sermon, visiting the sick, counseling the  
19 troubled, baptizing a new believer, or acting as a theologian, educator, administrator, or  
20 humanitarian, Reverend Stephenson serves as a shining example of God's righteous path; and

21 WHEREAS, Reverend Stephenson has been united in love and marriage to his supportive  
22 wife, Gladys, for 25 wonderful years and they have been blessed with two remarkable sons,  
23 Jesse and Sam; and

24 WHEREAS, the unmatched spiritual assistance offered by Reverend Stephenson is a source  
25 of strength and direction for persons in all walks of life and from all economic strata; and

26 WHEREAS, although his daily presence will be sorely missed upon the occasion of his  
27 retirement as pastor, Reverend Stephenson's influence is sure to be felt for many years to  
28 come.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
30 the members of this body commend Reverend Dr. Tom Stephenson for his innumerable good  
31 works rendered on behalf of persons in need, recognize his enduring example of God's  
32 message of peace and love, and extend to him best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
34 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Reverend Dr. Tom  
35 Stephenson.